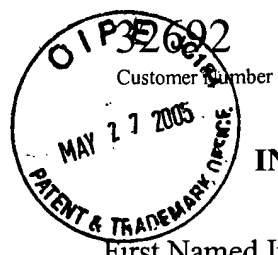


IPW



Patent  
Case No.: 59071US002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: BEDINGHAM, WILLIAM  
Application No.: 10/734717 Group Art Unit: 2856  
Filed: December 12, 2003 Examiner: Unknown  
Title: VARIABLE VALVE APPARATUS AND METHODS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop: Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

<b>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION [37 CFR § 1.8(a)]</b>	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being:	
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<u>May 24, 2005</u> Date	<u>Jody L. Bronson</u> Signed by Jody L. Bronson

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, enclosed is a completed Form PTO-1449, citing references submitted for consideration by the Examiner. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return the enclosed Form PTO-1449 to indicate that each reference has been considered.

Copies of any cited foreign patents, foreign publications, non-patent literature documents, and any pending U.S. applications filed before June 30, 2003, are enclosed. Copies of any pending U.S. applications filed after June 30, 2003 that can be accessed on the USPTO's IFW system are not enclosed as per USPTO Waiver dated September 21, 2004. Copies of any U.S. patents and published U.S. patent applications are not enclosed.

Under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1), I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

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A copy of the Search Report from a foreign counterpart application is enclosed.

It is believed that no fee is due; however, in the event a fee is required, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 13-3723.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

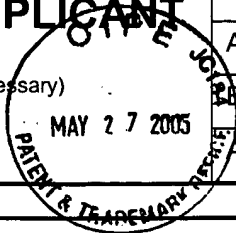
5-24-05

By:

Robert W. Sprague, Reg. No.: 30,497  
Telephone No.: (651) 736-4247

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel  
3M Innovative Properties Company  
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833

<b>Substitute for form 1449A/PTO (modified)</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use as many sheets as necessary)  Page 1 of 1	<b>Application Number</b>	<b>10/734717</b>
	<b>Filing Date</b>	<b>December 12, 2003</b>
	<b>First Named Inventor</b>	<b>Bedingham, William</b>
	<b>Art Unit</b>	<b>2856</b>
	<b>Examiner Name</b>	
	<b>Attorney Case Number</b>	<b>59071US002</b>



U.S. Patent Documents					
Exam. Init.*	Cite No.	Document Number	Publication Date or Issue Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Doc. Number-(Kind Code if Known)			
	A1	US- 6,532,997 B1	03-18-2003	Bedingham, William et al.	
	A2	US-			
	A3	US-			
	A4	US-			
	A5	US-			
	A6	US-			
	A7	US-			
	A8	US-			
	A9	US-			
	A10	US-			
	A11	US-			

Foreign Patent Documents							
Exam. Init.*	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Translation (Check if yes)
		Ctry. Code	Number-KindCode (If known)				
	B1	WO	97/21090 A	06-12-1997	Gamera Bioscience		
	B2	WO	01/30995 A	05-03-2001	Amersham Pharmacia Biotech		
	B3	WO	05/005045 A	01-20-2005	3M Innovative Properties Company		
	B4						

OTHER DOCUMENTS			
Exam. Init.*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	Translation (Check if yes)
	C1		
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